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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Noriaki KASAHARA et al.

Application No.: 10/041,637

Group Art Unit: 2653

Examiner: D. Ometz

Filed: January 10, 2002

Docket No.: 111653

For: THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME,  
AND METHOD OF FORMING A PATTERNED THIN-FILM FOR A THIN-FILM  
MAGNETIC HEAD

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

FEB 04 2004

Sir:

Technology Center 2600

Further to the February 2 telephone interview with Examiner Ometz, and as a supplement to the Amendment filed on December 31, 2003, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending and claims 1-12 and 25 are withdrawn from consideration.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Ometz at the telephone interview held February 2, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

During the interview, Applicants' representative stated that the arguments presented in the December 31 Amendment with respect to Rudy (U.S. Patent No. 6,193,584) was not clear. In particular, Applicants argued that "in Rudy, the ELG 140 and the read sensor 46 are formed by lapping parts of films for forming the same in a direction perpendicular to their

surfaces, and not by etching parts of films for forming the same in their thickness direction"  
(see December 31 Amendment at page 5).

This portion of the argument should have been more specific. Specifically, in Rudy, the ELG 140 and the read sensor 46 are formed by lapping parts of films for forming the same in a direction perpendicular to the air bearing surface (ABS), that is, in a direction parallel to the surfaces of the films. Therefore, Rudy does not disclose or suggest the magnetoresistive element being formed by etching a part of a film for the magnetoresistive element in its thickness direction and the dummy component being formed by etching a part of a dummy component in its thickness direction, as recited in independent claim 13.

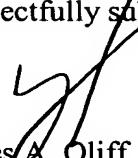
Kawata (U.S. Patent No. 4,860,432) does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 13 for reasons as discussed in the December 31 Amendment.

Therefore, independent claim 13 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 14-24 depend from independent claim 13, and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JAO:YSC/dmw

Date: February 3, 2004

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